

right now, at least the committee amendments that are before us, I would argue that we don't have enough funding in the proposal, but I...and I would have to oppose the first half of your amendment, but I could sure support the second half, and if I might, I would at this point, Madam President, ask if this amendment could be divided. The amendment would be divided just in the two parts that are laid out, the first section being the reduction from one cent to three-quarters and the second portion of the amendment would be the phase out of the credit as it relates to the checkoff provision that would be paid. I think they are clearly divisible in that regard and I would ask that the amendment be divided.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. I agree that they are divisible and we will start with paragraph one to amendment LB 984. If there's any, see if there is any further discussion on Section 1 to AM3660 and ask for discussion. Senator Cudaback, do you wish to discuss Section 1? Senator Cudaback. Senator Wehrbein, do you wish to discuss Section 1?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Just to say that I...let's see, Senator Hall is taking this. I still oppose, I oppose the first part of this amendment because it does lower it from one cent to three-quarters cent, much based on the rationale before that we carefully figured this. I think the ethanol producers who are investing upwards of 400 million, \$500 million in the State of Nebraska deserve some assurance that we are making an effort, a strong, good faith effort to fund this EPIC Fund and it is important to assure the organizations that producers by and large, that are contributing to this, agree with that approach. They appreciate this strong corn market that would be provided. They feel too that this should be funded and adequately funded and to go drop this from one cent to three-quarter would be a mistake, particularly since the industry themselves feel that this is necessary to assure adequate funds into the future.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Hall, you're next.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members, I rise in opposition to this portion of the Beutler amendment. I understand what Senator Beutler is doing, but I clearly believe that the...and I will rise in support of the back half of this amendment. I do believe though that even under the present bill, and I know Senator Wehrbein and I disagree on this issue,